

by the system. AVID is changing the belief system of entire communities by showing that low-income and minority students can achieve at the highest levels and succeed in college. In 2004–2005, 49.4 percent of AVID students were Hispanic and 17 percent were black. The success of these students is critical to closing the achievement gap.

In Chicago is a legendary educator named Marva Collins. She argues, “When we cease destroying [students’] self-esteem by making them doubt their abilities and leading them to believe that their worth is unimportant and valueless, we shall see the poor student become a good student, and the good student become a superior student. Creating doubt in the mind erases self-esteem and self-value.”

We have put hurdle after hurdle in front of our students, but we have forgotten to teach them how to jump. We expect them to demonstrate what they have learned in school, but we have not taught them to read. We expect them to go to college and get a job, but we have not given them the learning skills they need to graduate from high school, much less college. In the absence of a college-going tradition in their families and communities, how can we be surprised that students are not meeting our unrealistic expectations? Teaching organizational and study skills, working on critical thinking, providing tutors, and creating enrichment and motivational activities, AVID has challenged all of us to examine the lessons we are teaching our children.

AVID has reminded all of us to stop blaming the victims of an education system in crisis, and it has realized tremendous success rates. In 2004–2005, 75.1 percent of AVID graduates were accepted to 4-year colleges. 99.1 percent of AVID students graduated from high school, compared to 70 percent nationally. While 36 percent of students completed the 4-year college entrance requirement nationally, a staggering 86.7 percent of AVID students did so.

Ms. Collins reminds us: “Our children and parents surrender themselves to those who are identified as protectors, but who actually destroy them. Children come to school to get what they lack, and they are told, instead, all the things they cannot do. We, the educators, [—and indeed I believe the politicians—] should be the hope of our children. We should be their insurance against the dark side of failure and mediocrity, and, far too many times, we cancel that insurance by labeling them ‘At Risk students.’ They come to be complete and far too many schools split them in halves.”

I commend and thank all of the men and women that have contributed to AVID’s success over the past 25 years—empowering students to make responsible decisions and contribute positively to society.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF  
ROBERT LUTHER

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the career of retiring Lake Land College President Robert K. Luther. Dr. Luther concluded his exceptionally accomplished 18-year tenure on June 30, 2006.

Before coming to Lake Land, Dr. Luther served on Governor Jim Edgar’s Integration of Workforce Education task force and Governor George Ryan’s Illinois Workforce Investment Board. Upon arriving at the college, Dr. Luther faced many challenges in reforming and improving the college’s educational system and atmosphere, including reversing a substantial budget deficit and shrinking student enrollment, as well as beautifying a deteriorating campus.

Today, the college operates on a stable budget and is considered one of the most beautiful places in central Illinois, but Dr. Luther considers his greatest accomplishment to be increasing the college’s headcount enrollment by 113 percent since his arrival.

Dr. Luther has helped to create many of Lake Land College’s successful off-campus programs. Lake Land is the largest provider of postsecondary education to correctional centers in the State of Illinois, and the college now offers over 160 online courses. In addition, Dr. Luther has been an exceptional fundraiser, increasing Lake Land’s annual scholarship fund six fold, from \$50,000 to \$300,000.

Citizens of the 15th District of Illinois honor Dr. Luther for his innovation and leadership at Lake Land College. He has done a great service to our community and greater central Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the career of Lake Land College President Robert K. Luther.

TRIBUTE TO 100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE LONDON POST OFFICE  
OF LONDON, WV

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the London Post Office in London, WV. Despite 15 postmasters and three different buildings it remains a center of activity for the community.

The first location for the post office was in a building near the railroad tracks, and it was later housed in a general store that burned down in 1989. The current post office now sits on the same piece of land as the two previous ones. This landmark has become an anchor of the community for social gatherings and town news.

Chip Frame is the current postmaster and has worked there for 9 years. Even with an hour commute, the family atmosphere and friendly community make it worth the drive for him.

ISRAEL

**HON. DAVE WELDON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last month Israel was provoked when Hamas terrorists kidnapped CPL. Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier, manning and checkpoint. This was an unprovoked act of terror—act of war—against Israel by Hamas—which also controls the Palestinian Authority government.

As long as Hamas embraces terrorism and refuses to acknowledge the right of Israel to exist, terrorists will persist in the Palestinian lands.

Earlier this week, Hizballah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers in Northern Israel. Israel has responded in an effort to rescue these soldiers and diminish the ability to Hizballah to launch missiles into Israeli population centers.

I rise to express support for our ally, Israel, as it deals with yet more terrorist acts . . . the kidnapping of its soldiers during late June and the continuing barrage of rockets launched at Israeli citizens from Gaza and Lebanon.

The kidnapping of the Israeli soldiers can certainly be considered a provocation of war.

Unfortunately, Israel’s withdrawal from the Gaza strip has not led to a positive transformation of Palestinian politics or more security for the Israeli people.

Likewise, Israel’s withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000—which was certified by the United Nations—has failed to provide peace for Israelis living in northern Israel. Since Israel’s 2000 withdrawal, Hizballah has fired hundreds of rockets targeting Israeli civilians. Over the past year, Hizballah has carried out four major attacks into Israel in an effort to harm Israeli citizens.

Israel exhausted all non-military means to get its soldier released by Hamas before it called for these military actions.

The Hamas-led Palestinian Authority is failing the Palestinian people by giving comfort to terrorists.

It is imperative that we provide Israel with continued and broad-based support since an even greater destabilizing force is developing in the region—a nuclear-armed Iran with terrorist allies in Hizballah and Hamas.

IN RECOGNITION OF EMILY  
LAWRIMORE

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the continuity of a Congressional session, there is a normal shuffling of staff positions. Today, it is with mixed emotions that I announce the departure of Emily Lawrimore.

For the past year and a half, Emily has held one of the most difficult jobs on Capitol Hill—serving as the Communications Director for the Second Congressional District. Emily has handled her position with professionalism, grace, and integrity. Her dedication and work ethic will be difficult to replace.

Emily began her career in Washington as a member of Congressman CHARLIE NORWOOD’s staff. She leaves the halls of Congress tomorrow to become Assistant Press Secretary for President George W. Bush. I am confident that Emily will be a welcome addition to the President’s press office.

A graduate of Clemson University, Emily Lawrimore is one of two children of Marshall and Cindy Lawrimore of Columbus, Georgia. She is a credit to the people of South Carolina and Georgia, and I wish her Godspeed.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.